

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever does.” –Margaret Mead



Geography 98/198:

Global Citizenship And Activism In The 21st Century

Time: Monday, 6-8pm

Location: Wheeler 200

Facilitators:

Emily Alter, *Urban Studies*, emilyalter@gmail.com

Christina Monzer, *Development Studies, CP Minor*, lublutina@gmail.com

Bethel Moges, *Peace & Conflict Studies, GPP Minor*, bmoges@berkeley.edu

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Faculty Sponsor: Gillian Hart

Course Description:

In an era of social, economic, political and environmental interconnectedness, there is a serious need for global awareness and activism. The premise of this research-intensive DeCal is to teach the tools and technique of effective global activism. We hope that through a series of guest speakers and workshops, students will learn to not only think globally, but act locally to address the major issues of our time.

Course Structure:

Classes will alternate between guest lectures, films, discussion and research workshops. Through a greater conception of how global issues affect and are effected by individual action, students will work to create an active approach to addressing their area of research. Students will be responsible for a short report or project of their choosing and an action proposal generated by their research. These action proposals will be added to a larger database which will be made available to like-minded individuals on campus looking to get involved.

Course Goals:

It is the hope of the facilitators that by the end of the semester, students will have a better understanding of the intricacies of our global situation, a clearer conception of what it means to be a global citizen and to think globally. Additionally, we hope to provide a medium through which student activists can join other organizations and movements promoting global awareness. Students will leave this DeCal with the knowledge and tool-set to carry out the effective research necessary to think and act on a global scale.

SYLLABUS IS TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Course Requirements:

Attendance:

Students will be allowed two absences, but will be asked to write a short response to that week's readings or regarding an activism project of interest. An attendance sheet will be passed out during each class.

Readings:

There will be a few short readings assigned each week. Some readings may supplement the subject matter presented by guest speakers, so we expect students to take these readings seriously, as speakers will look to engage the students in a discussion about these pertinent issues.

Workshops:

Workshops will be mandatory and will allow students to make in-class progress on their research reports and action proposals.

Grading:

- 30% Final Project (Research Report/Project *and* Action Proposal)
- 30% Class Participation
- 30% Attendance
- 10% Readings

Week of Monday, February 1st

Introduction – As a global citizen, I...

Guest Lecture: Ashoka Finley and Andy Perero, SGC

Readings: “50 Visionaries Who Are Changing Your World” Utne Reader Staff, *Utne Reader*, 2009

Week of Monday, February 8th

Framing Global Citizenship – Research and Rhetoric

Film/Film Clips: “Yes Men” – Earnesty vs. Humor in Global Activism

Workshop: Drafting an Effective Research Proposal

Assignment: Research Proposal Rough Draft

Reading: “How to Write about Africa” Binyavanga Wainaina, *Granta*, 2005

<http://www.granta.com/Magazine/92/How-to-Write-about-Africa/Page-1>

Week of Monday, February 15th - NO CLASS

Week of Monday, February 22nd

Grassroots Mobilization: The Steps of a Few to Mobilize the Many

Guest Lecture: TBA (or *Granita de Arena* Film)

Assignment: Annotated Bibliography

Reading: *Networking Futures: The Movements Against Corporate Globalization*, Chapter 1: The Seattle Effect, Jeffery S. Juris, 2008.

Week of Monday, March 1st

Public Education and the UC Berkeley Protests: Representation in the Media

Guest Lecture: Julie Michelle Klinger

Workshop: Media Representation and Effective Evaluation of Secondary Sources

Readings: Geography Graduate Student Letter to Chancellor Birgeneau

RESEARCH PROPOSAL DRAFT DUE

Week of Monday, March 8th

Workshop and Discussion

Workshop: Annotated Bibliography & Furthering Your Research

Open Discussion – Grassroots Mobilization, Issues in Research

RESEARCH TOPIC PRESENTATIONS

Week of Monday, March 15th

Activism Through Institutions

Guest Lecture/Workshop: led by Graduate Students (TBA)

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE

Week of Monday, March 22nd - NO CLASS, HAPPY SPRING BREAK!

Week of Monday, March 29th

Consumerism and Fair-Trade: How Are You Involved?

Guest Lecture: TransFair – Fair Trade at CAL

Discussion: Being global citizens through everyday actions

Assignment: Watch Black Gold Documentary

Week of Monday, April 5th

How Global is Global Warming?: The Niger Delta and Shell Oil

Guest Lecture: TBA

Assignment: Final Report and Action Proposal

Reading: “Oil Inferno” Michael Watts. *CounterPunch*, 2007.

Week of Monday, April 12th

Energy & Society

Guest Lecture: TBA

Reading: “The Harder Path-Shifting Gears” Laura Nader, *Anthropological Quarterly*, 2004.

RESEARCH PROGRESS CHECK

Week of Monday, April 19th

Workspace and Final Presentation Preparation

For those interested in making a short film, there will be a camera available...

Week of Monday, April 26th

Final Presentations and Class Wrap-Up

FINAL REPORT OR PRESENTATION AND ACTION PROPOSAL DUE